Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of determining whether a subject is at increased risk for alcoholism, said method comprising:

(a) administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a $GABA_A$ receptor modulator and determining whether the subject is sensitive or insensitive to such $GABA_A$ receptor modulator;

(b) subsequently administering a therapeutically effective amount of a $GABA_A$ receptor agonist and determining whether the subject is sensitive or insensitive to such $GABA_A$ agonist; and

(c) correlating a decreased sensitivity to a $GABA_A$ receptor modulator and an increased sensitivity to a $GABA_A$ agonist with an increased risk of alcoholism in the subject.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor modulator is a benzodiazepine.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor agonist is gaboxadol or THIP.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of claim 2 wherein the benzodiazepine is Valium (diazepam), Activan (lorazepam), Midazolam, or Flunitrazepam.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of claim 4 wherein the dose range is from about 5 to about 20 mg.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 3 wherein the dose range is from about 1 to about 3 mg/kg.

Claim 7 Cancelled.

Claim 8 (original): A method of screening for a drug which decreases expression of the $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ subunit of $GABA_A$ receptor, said method comprising: (a) expressing $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors in eukaryotic cells; (b) applying a drug to the eukaryotic cells of (a); (c)measuring the level of δ subunit of $GABA_A$ from the treated eukaryotic cells of step (b); (d) determining whether the drug applied in step (b) decreases expression of the δ subunit of $GABA_A$ receptors; and (e) correlating a decrease in expression of the δ subunit of $GABA_A$ receptors found in the treated eukaryotic cells of step (b) when compared to a control eukaryotic cell population having no drug application, with the identification of a drug which decreases expression of $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors.

Claims 9 – 10 Cancelled

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method for identifying a drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors, said method comprising:

(a) isolating and culturing neurons;

(b) applying a drug to the cultured neurons of (a);

(c) measuring $GABA_A$ gated currents at $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors in the treated neurons of (b); and

(d) correlating a decrease in $GABA_A$-gated currents recorded at $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors when compared to a control culture with no drug application, with the identification of a drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method for identifying a drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors, said method comprising (a) expressing $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors in eukaryotic cells ; (b) applying a drug to the eukaryotic cells of (a); (c) measuring $GABA_A$ gated currents at $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors in the treated eukaryotic cells of (b); and (d) correlating a decrease in $GABA_A$-gated currents recorded at $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors

when compared to a eukaryotic cell population having no drug application, with the identification of a drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors and identified by the method of claim 11, or 12.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method of treating a patient at risk for alcoholism, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the drug of claim 13.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method of determining whether a subject is at increased risk for premenstrual anxiety, said method comprising:

(a) administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a $GABA_A$ receptor modulator and determining whether the subject is sensitive or insensitive to such $GABA_A$ receptor modulator;

(b) subsequently administering a therapeutically effective amount of a $GABA_A$ receptor agonist and determining whether the subject is sensitive or insensitive to such $GABA_A$ agonist; and

(c) correlating a decreased sensitivity to a $GABA_A$ receptor modulator and an increased sensitivity to a $GABA_A$ agonist with an increased risk of premenstrual anxiety in the subject.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor modulator is a benzodiazepine.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor agonist is gaboxadol or THIP.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 wherein the benzodiazepine is Valium (diazepam), Activan (lorazepam), Midazolam, or Flunitrazepam.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18 wherein the dose range is about 5-20 mg.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17 wherein the dose range is about 1-3 mg/kg.

Claim 21 Cancelled.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A drug which blocks $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ $GABA_A$ receptors and identified by the method of claim 11or 12.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A method of treating a patient at risk for premenstrual anxiety, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the drug of claim 13.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 8 or 12 wherein the eukaryotic cells are *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, mouse fibroblast L929 cells, mouse L(-tk) fibroblast cell line, human embryonic kidney cells, green monkey kidney cells, or COS cells.